



By unanimous agreement, the Somerset County Board of Education convened in a closed session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss personnel and legal matters as permitted by the Maryland Open Meetings Act, S10-508(a)(9) of the State Government Article. Present were Chairman Sumpter, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Wells, Dr. Whittington, Ms. Green-Gale, Superintendent Dr. Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary.

The regular Board meeting began at 7:03 p.m. Present were Chairman Sumpter, Vice Chairman Miles, Mr. Wells, Dr. Whittington, Ms. Green-Gale, Superintendent Karen-Lee Brofee, and Melissa Tilghman, recording secretary. The student representative from Crisfield High School was present, but Washington High School's representative was excused from the meeting.

OPEN WORK SESSION

Dr. Brofee discussed the continuing PVA issue with the Board members. The recent audit sited that Somerset County Public Schools had paid over \$1 million in extended PVA – not documented as approved. SCPS can no longer continue this practice. A review of the PVA cost, and a handout with various scenarios and dates were implemented.

Mr. Wells questioned how the fifteen year PVA extension affected drivers and what were the savings. The Superintendent recommended eight or nine years of use before a new bus can be purchased and an old bus made a spare. The Board agreed that input from the bus contractors is needed before a decision or further discussion is done on PVA. Dr. Brofee will meet with the bus contractors on costs and bus life and will forward the information to the Board members.

Charles Fisher addressed the Board on his request to purchase a new bus. Chairman Sumpter provided Mr. Fisher with an explanation for the delay in not voting on his request. The Board members thanked him for attending the work session.

Dr. Whittington expressed concern additional information was needed before a vote could be made and the previous request for information had not been satisfied. He also expressed his dissatisfaction with the current point system used when hiring substitute bus contractors. Mr. Daugherty explained that the point system was used to entice bus substitutes and explained why more contracts were allotted to specific drivers.

The Board agreed that bus contractors should be able to discuss and work out a lot of their issues. Chairman Sumpter recommended that the superintendent send individual letters to contractors informing them of the next meeting and what will be discussed as a follow-up phone call.

The Superintendent informed the Board that a group of seniors at Washington Academy and High School have invited the Board members to visit their school on April 20, 2011. The students would like to discuss the secondary school uniform initiative. The Board members agreed that no feedback would be given to the students.

The Superintendent briefly discussed the budget and outlined expenditures and expenses.

Ms. Green-Gale expressed her regrets for the lost of the Family Consumer Science Programs from Somerset Intermediate School & King's Café. Mrs. King is retiring and that position is not being filled.

REGULAR SESSION AGENDA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Brofee at 7:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called by Melissa Tilghman indicating that all five Board members and the Superintendent were present. Both Student Representatives were present.

3. Declaration of Quorum

It was declared that a quorum was present.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Sumpter led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Minutes

A motion was called for by Chairman Sumpter, moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles, and passed to approve the amended minutes of March 8, 2011 and March 15, 2011. The motion was carried unanimously.

6. Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Mr. Wells, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to adopt the amended agenda. Item 8, the United Way Campaign was tabled until the May Board meeting.

7. Student Board Members' Activities Report

Miss Sturgis presented an excellent report on the upcoming school events and was thanked by the Board. Miss Elmore was excused from the meeting and her report was presented by Dr. Brofee.

8. United Way Campaign

This item was tabled until the May Board meeting.

9. Skills USA Competition

Mr. Laird introduced the CTE students and teachers and provided a little detail about the competition. Skills USA formed in 1965 to promote students to learn work skills. Students compete in local competitions. If the students place in the top three regional competition they move to the State competition. J.M. Tawes had winners in the Business Administration, Fire Fighter Rescue, Automotive Technology, and Carpentry categories.

10. Public Participation

Several addressed the Board with upcoming concerns. Ms. Betty Collier addressed the Board in regards to the Secondary Uniform Expansion Initiative. She stated that this would put a financial burden on parents and that students should have a decision in what they wear. Ms. Collier also expressed the concern of the elimination of middle school sports and that the Board should look for other programs to cut.

Ms. Laurie Troop-Curtis addressed the Board in regards to the elimination of middle school sports and fine arts. Ms. Troop also expressed concern that at Crisfield Academy and High School higher grades could not take Fine Arts due to a conflicting schedule with AP courses.

Ms. Lisa Muir addressed the Board on the Secondary Uniform Expansion Initiative. Ms. Muir expressed concern that the survey was biased and that seniors should not have been a part of the survey. She stated that uniforms are expensive and will fall apart. Ms. Muir also expressed that heavier children will lose confidence if they are forced to follow the uniform dress code.

Mr. Henry Ward addressed the Board with concern of the elimination of bus #28 and the burden it would put on the other bus drivers. Mr. Ward also expressed concern of the awarding of a contract for Route #3 stating that all bus contractors be given the opportunity to apply for advertised routes.

The Board thanked everyone for attending the meeting with assurance that their concerns would be considered.

11. A. Facilities and Transportation

Advertisement of Route #3

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to advertise for Route #3 with the stipulation that all drivers are given the opportunity to apply. The vote was unanimous. Dr. Whittington expressed his concern of points given to substitutes during the interview process and stated that he is not in favor of this particular process.

Approval of New Bus Purchase

It was moved by Mr. Wells, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve Mr. Daugherty's request to allow Charles Fisher to purchase a new bus. The vote was 3:2 with Vice Chairman Miles and Dr. Whittington not in favor of the vote.

B. Response to Football Request for Crisfield Academy and High School

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Dr. Whittington and passed to approve continued funding of one football team in the county and to continue the current practice. The student must attend the school where the sport is played.

C. Human Resources

Job Descriptions

It was moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Mr. Wells and passed to approve the revised job descriptions for the Director of Transportation and Facilities, Director of Finance, and the Human Resources Generalist. The vote was unanimous with all Board members in agreement.

Whistle Blower Policy

Dr. Brofee presented the revised policy #700-9 to include whistle blowing for the Board's review and study. This addition was suggested by the legislative auditors as a protection mechanism.

Staffing 2011-2012

Dr. Brofee provided the Board with an update on staffing for the 2011-2012 school year. There has been one layoff and 10.5 position cuts.

D. Student Services

Ms. McLaughlin provided the Board with an update on the Uniform Initiative. The elementary schools and the middle school are doing well with uniforms. Principals also help students who do not have uniforms by providing one while they are at school. A survey for the secondary schools was done with an 84% response with 82% saying they would wear uniforms. The surveys revealed that 8 – 11 grade students were not in favor of wearing uniforms. It was decided that more research was needed before the uniform expansion could be enforced for the high schools. Ms. McLaughlin recommended the continuation of uniforms for elementary with the addition of black tops.

Ms. Ward, CAHS principal, read a letter to the Board written by a parent expressing the hardship the implementation of uniforms would put on eighth grades students and that the initiation of uniforms would not increase test scores or prevent bullying.

Chairman Sumpter stated that more research is needed before the expansion can be done at the secondary level including eighth graders.

12. New Business

Instructional Report

Mr. Bloodsworth discussed Race to the Top which will include the expansion of the data system for students. This expansion will track students' progress from Pre K through the workforce and the future curriculum will include an increase in writing projects. The STEM will be included in the RTTT curriculum with cross teaching implementation in the classroom. The 3 – 8 grade students will begin taking a three course assessment and MSA's and HSA's will continue.

A summer school program to be held this summer will include a technology based Reading intervention program and will focus on 6 -9 grade students' intervention and remediation. The migrant program will continue again this summer and will be held at Greenwood and Princess Anne Elementary as well as a 21st Century Voyager program that will be offered for a week. Summer school will again be offered for high schools (\$100) and middle school (\$75) for those students who need to retake courses.

Ms. Schneider discussed the Challenge of the Champion project. The challenge went well and was enjoyed by all students.

Finance

Superintendent's Budget Proposal 2012

The Superintendent presented a breakdown of the 2012 budget which included staffing cuts, position lost and programs with a decrease in funding. The next meeting on the budget will be held April 26, 2011.

Monthly Finance Report

Ms. Miller presented the monthly finance report to the Board.

Food Service Report

Ms. Miller presented the food service report to the Board members informing them that an increase in lunch prices is anticipated for next year to offset state reimbursement.

B. Human Resources

Job Descriptions

Mr. Lawson presented the following revised job descriptions for the Board's review and study and vote at the May Board meeting: Human Resources Associate and Secondary Technology Instructional Facilitator.

New Hire, Retires, and Resignations

A motion was called for by General Sumpter, moved by Vice Chairman Miles, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale to approve Mr. Lawson's amended Human Resources Report. The motion was carried unanimously.

Retirees: Marguerite Robinson and Daniel Collins

New Hires: Rebecca Pratte

Resignations: Mallory Hall, Sarah Richards

C. Field Trip Request

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to approve the field trip request for CAHS's JROTC students to attend a camp in June to Bethany Beach. The camp will provide the JROTC cadets challenging, meaningful, hands-on training in a military environment which develops good citizenship, leaderships, and patriotism. The vote was unanimous.

14. Superintendent Search Update

General Sumpter provided an update on the Superintendent search. The process continues and is going well. The Board members are ready to begin the interview process.

15. Superintendent and Board Member Comments

The Superintendent announced the retirement of Dr. Nancy Grasmick, State Superintendent. Washington Academy and High School received state recognition for their Food Drive, the Federal Government has not revised the NCLB and twenty teachers attended Flex Day on April 21, 2011. She also asked that everyone keep LeAnn Widdowson's husband in their prayers.

Vice Chairman Miles thanked Dr. Brofee and staff for all their hard work on the budget. Dr. Whittington and General Sumpter thanked the parents for their concerns and encouraged more parent participation. Everyone was thanked for their attendance.

- 16. April 2011** – A motion was called for by General Sumpter, moved by Chairman Miles, seconded by Ms. Green-Gale and passed to hold a Public Hearing on the Proposed 2012 Budget at 6:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Technology and Career Center. On Tuesday May 17, 2011 the Board will convene in an open work session at 5:00 p.m. to discuss Capital Projects and the proposed 2012 Budget, a closed session at 6:00 p.m., and an open regular session meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the J.M. Tawes Technology & Career Center on Tuesday, May 17, 2011.

17. Adjournment

It was moved by Dr. Whittington, seconded by Vice Chairman Miles and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Karen-Lee N. Brofee, Superintendent

Recorded and Prepared by: Melissa Tilghman/Secretary